

The Wobbly Oscillator

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society



April 2019 Volume 49 Number 4



Welcome Springtime

From The Prez Meetings

What does the monthly meeting mean to you? For some it means free doughnuts and pop. Others relish the opportunity to turn two bucks into fifty playing the 50/50 drawing. Summer picnic meetings in the park and dinner meetings at restaurants add to the enjoyment of regular meetings. We bring interesting and informative programs to the evening get together that seem to always bring favorable comments to the next night's net. The monthly meetings bring attendees up to speed regarding club business and activities. So the CARS meetings can mean some or all of these things to any one person.

To me, the meetings are one special evening every month where I can get together with my fellow ham friends and enjoy the company of those who immerse themselves in our great hobby. I am always one of the first to arrive and usually the last one to leave. Often times after the door is closed on the meeting room conversation will continue for another half hour in the parking lot. My dad used to have a framed sign that said "People who enjoy the same hobbies enjoy each other's company." How true, how true. What saddens me is there are many members of CARS who have never attended a meeting. They don't know what they are missing.

The Magic Bus

Bright and early Saturday morning on May 18th the CARS bus will be roaring down the highway transporting an excited group of amateur radio enthusiasts to the annual Hamvention. So far we have a good amount of hams signed up, but there is still room for more. Contact me to make a reservation and see the CARS website for payment information. Thanks to Scott's, AC8NW, connection to the bus company we got the bus at a really low cost, so we can keep the fare at \$50 per rider. That's for a round trip that leaves Saturday morning and returns that evening to the greatest gathering of amateurs from all over the world. All the major manufactures and countless smaller suppliers will display and sell their equipment. There will be acres of new and used equipment in the flea market. The move to the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center has been considered a real step up by a vast amount of the attendees. Please join us; or as a contemporary bard sung "Just hop on the bus, Gus."

73, Toby, WT8O

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society
March 13th 2019 Business Meeting Minutes

The CARS membership was called to order by Vice President Mark Moro, WJ8WM, at 7:30 PM on the 13th day of the month at Simons Restaurant in Brecksville, Ohio. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and introductions were made by the members and guests. The February 12th 2019 Business meeting minutes were approved as they appeared in the March 2019 *Wobbly Oscillator*.

Bob, W8GC, gave the report on the treasury balance. Bob also reminded the group to please pay your Club dues. You may also renew your ARRL dues through CARS. See Bob for details. The club receives a portion on dues renewals as well as new members.

Bob gave a brief report on Amazon Smile. Every purchase through Amazon Smile returns 0.5% of the purchase price to the club. Your Amazon.com link should be set to Smile.Amazon.com so the benefits will be returned to the club. You will not notice a change to your Amazon home page. Use Amazon as you normally would do. There is a link on the CARS web site at the bottom of the Home screen for Amazon Smile.

William Sheehan, K2WJS, was approved by the membership in attendance as a NEW member.

Anyone who is riding the bus to Hamvention needs to get your money to Toby. The cost is \$50 dollars. Bus information is on the Home screen of the CARS website.

Mark mentioned to get your presentation ideas to Bill, KD8QBB. The presentation topics do not necessarily have to be Ham Radio related. We are always looking for NEW topics and Presenters as well.

W.O. contributions are still needed. Articles and or pictures. Items for sale as well. There is a section in the W.O. for items to sell. Submit them to Toby so the items can be added to the W.O.

There is a DMR "Digital Mobile Radio" seminar at the Orange Library on March 24th. The seminar begins at 2 PM. Another DMR seminar is scheduled for the Independence Library on April, 27th also at 2 PM. The Cleveland Marathon is still seeking volunteers for May 19th. Public Service events are listed on the Cuyahoga County ARES site at www.gcares.us. Access the calendar for details. The Buckeye Breakaway cycling event is August 3rd and 4th.

The club may be asked to participate in the Seven Hills Memorial Day parade again this year.

Larry, N8OWS, had nothing to report.

The Tech committee had no report as well.

Mark thanked the Refreshment Committee for all their work.

The CARS license class is in session. The location is Seven Hills City Hall. Classes run each Thursday at 6:30 PM. The classes will run through April 11th with the VE test session that evening. There are 17 participants in the class.

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[March meeting minutes continued]

Metro, W8MET, stated that the VE session on March 10th produced five NEW Technicians and two Extra class upgrades.

Linda Sinko, N8LRS, was the Winner of the February ARRL Handbook giveaway.

There were 24 members and guests in attendance this evening.

There was no 50/50 raffle this evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Submitted by Larry Shimerka, N8OWS.

April Birthdays

**Tim Campensa, KDSYQM
4/10/47**

Mark Studer, KCSFQV 4/14/64

Bary Berkowitz, KSREF 4/19

Vince Bak, NSOVW 4/22/49

Bob Wright, KESCEO 4/22/63

John Cobb Sr., KC8WLY 4/23/57

Joe Berngartt, NC8J 4/27/51

Metro Sinko, W8MET 4/27/52

Bob Check, W8GC 4/29/41

Peep from the Veep Mark, WJ8WM

Hamvention is right around the corner! Now is the time to be working on our shopping lists. Take a look around the shack, what needs to be replaced or added? Need a new meter or mic? How about some new ear cups for the headphones? Maybe you have been busy making cables and are running low on fittings or solder.

The point is all of this and much more is available in Xenia. There are deals, deals, and more deals there. I enjoy seeing the new radios and products but it's the little odds and ends that I pickup to replenish my stock. The swap meet is full of older hard to find items. Maybe you can find the missing knob for that "classic" radio sitting on the shelf!

Some go to learn by attending some of the many presentations or forums. I did that one trip. Spent all day Friday learning about different facets of amateur radio. Even if you don't need a new radio, odds and ends, or education, the bus ride is fun, the comradery is great, and don't forget the tasty food at this venue!

73 -WJ8WM

Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society
March 4th, 2019 Board of Directors Minutes

The CARS Board of Directors meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Andy Evridge, KD8SCV, at 7:00 PM on the 4th day of the month at the Independence Library.

Meeting attendees were Bob, W8GC; Mark, WJ8WM; Toby, WT8O; Andy, KD8SCV; Larry, N8OWS; Ed, WB8ROK; Mike, KD8OUE and Arp, K8ARP.

The following items were discussed and action taken noted.

1. There was no Old business to discuss.
2. Board of Directors Chairman. Current chairman Andy, KD8SCV, accepted re-nomination and election by the Board to continue as Chairman for 2019.
3. Repeater permissions. Toby, WT8O, spoke with Brecksville about using the building that is adjacent to the tower that CARS currently is using. The city stated they would need to check with the Vasu Corporation and they would get back to Toby. Vasu owns the Brunswick site as well as the tower in Shaker Heights. Toby would also like to talk with Vasu concerning these sites as well. The goal is to document all repeater sites.
4. Amazon Smiles and past CARS bus financials. Bob, W8GC, passed out an email from Amazon detailing how Amazon Smile was working for the club. It detailed how much money was being returned to the club with each purchase through Amazon Smile. Bob also stated that some years CARS lost money on the Hamvention bus while other years a small profit was made.
5. Bequests/Legacies. Andy, KD8SCV, spoke with club member Rick Dell'Aquila, KD8SCT, (an attorney as well as Mayor of Seven Hills). The topic concerned members of CARS who might want to leave the club equipment or possibly money upon his/her passing away. There could be tax issues with this as well. Rick said he would get back with Andy on some legal wording. This is ongoing with a possible presentation later on in the year.
6. Club owned equipment. A list of club owned equipment will need to be generated for insurance purposes.
7. 2019 CARS Hamvention Bus recap. A motion was proposed and passed via e-mail on February 25, 2019 to once again have a bus chartered for the Hamvention in Xenia on May 18th, 2019.



Members of the 2019 CARS licensing class hard at work. Students in the General class in the foreground, with the Extra class in the background.

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8. Fund Raising. The club would like to pursue a plan to generate some extra money. A gift basket for Mother's Day was discussed with raffle tickets sold for the basket. The Woodchuck club had a successful raffle in January so this idea may be worth consideration. No action taken.
9. Membership / Other events. Currently, individuals who pass the Technician class examination at a CARS VE session get a free one-year membership to CARS. (Additionally, the club's custom has been to extend the free membership term to the end of a following calendar year for examinees passing the technician class exam in July, September, or November of a given calendar year.) Although few from any one group of examinees renew after expiration of their free membership, the board endorsed continuation of the free initial memberships for passing Technician class examinees at CARS VE sessions.

Younger members are needed in the hobby to have continued interest in Amateur radio as well as a younger membership to continue the club into the future. The Club would like to reconnect with the Boy Scouts. Andy, KD8SCV, will contact the Boy Scouts and see if there is interest. There is a merit badge for Amateur radio. Toby, WT8O, stated that he was working on reconnecting with a school for an Amateur radio station.

10. Officer Backups. Toby, WT8O, would also like if we had members to fill in as a backup in the event that an officer was unable to attend a meeting. A backup for Treasurer and Board Chairman is needed. A current officer cannot be the backup Board Chairman. Mike, KD8OUE, was nominated for the position of backup Board Chairman. Mike accepted the nomination and election by the board. A backup for the Treasurer position is still needed and a backup for the W.O. Editor would also be welcomed.
11. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

Submitted by Larry Shimerka, N8OWS.



David, KD8ACO, conveys the fun of ham radio to his Technician class on the first night.

A Better Receive-Only Antenna, That Can Transmit Too

Dave, AC8TN

Like many of us, I am never satisfied with my station. I am always researching ways to improve my transmitted signal and receiver capability. Having dedicated receive-only antennas are something I have come to rely on since I installed my Welbrook Active Magnetic Loop in July 2016. Adding to this capability, in the autumn of 2017 Metro, W8MET, and I built my 25 foot square phased back-to-back delta loop receive-only antenna. It was easy to build and worked like a champ allowing me to work a most notable station on Mauritius Island in the Indian Ocean on 40M phone while transmitting on my vertical (reference my WO article in Winter of 2018). Problem was it had so many support poles and guys that it could only be erected in the late fall and winter because it made it impossible to cut the majority of the grass in the back yard. So in May of 2018, it came down and was stored for some future time. I didn't miss it much as the upper bands opened in the spring and summer, but autumn returned and I found myself back on 40M and 80M again wanting better ears.

So began my journey for a more permanent replacement, a multiple band antenna that could be up year round, be resonant on at least one band and handle legal limit. I also had some evidence from other operators that I had become an alligator on 40M and 80M with my Gap Voyager vertical and 1KW amp. You know, "big mouth" and "little ears", so I wanted something to help reduce this issue too.

One morning driving to work I was chatting on my 2M mobile and the conversation turned to Skyloop antennas. These antennas can be very long, being a full wavelength for resonance. Also since they're horizontal, a uniform 1/2 wavelength above the ground is recommended for a good low angle of radiation. Maybe this could work for me.

The calculation for this antenna's length is:

Length (in feet) = $1005/\text{Frequency (MHz)}$.

Reference website: n1su.com/loop.html

Running the calculation for 3.55MHz, I needed a length of wire about 283 feet long and "ideally" uniformly 120 feet (1/2 wavelength) above the ground. Looking at a Google Earth satellite view of my property, it became obvious that I could fit this Skyloop along the perimeter of my backyard along the hurricane fence. The issues were it would be nowhere near 120 feet high, it would be a rather odd shape and it would be close to my other antennas. Since I have a clump of trees in my back yard that are near the property line, I had an obvious "high" support at about 35 feet. The remainder of the antenna would be supported by three 21 foot tall fiberglass telescoping poles, a steel pipe and finally suspended between the two chimneys on the house. I chose the fiberglass poles to eliminate any interaction with my 45 foot vertical.



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Termination would be made at the NE corner of the antenna with a Comtek 1:1 balun and an isolation transformer attached to one of the chimneys. Apparently these antennas will radiate from the coax braid, so I thought an isolation transformer was mandatory.

I chose to use insulated copper clad steel 14 AWG stranded wire attached to a 3/16" Dacron messenger line. I used my air cannon to shoot a line over the trees, erected all the poles and raised the Skyloop on 3/SEP/18. At 283 feet it resonated below the 80M CW band. Removing 7.5 feet of wire, moved the resonant point up to 3.530 MHz. Six months later it's still up and working great. The only issue is when it rains or is covered by ice, the resonant point drops well below the band edge.

I use it primarily as a receive-only antenna on 40M phone. It is really a "loud" wire, and low noise antenna. It's really amazing how it pulls in the weak signals. With my diversity reception enabled, it seems to always be in the mix. On 80M CW, I've worked much of the USA and the furthest contact has been Hungary. Since it is so close to the ground, I imagine it is a bit of a cloud-warmer, but it receives like crazy and is very usable on 80M for state side contacts. I typically run about 300W on CW and rarely have to wait to get a response after calling CQ. On 160M the antenna operates poorly (very noisy), so I typically use my Welbrook loop for reception on that band. Finally interaction with my other antennas has not been an issue.

Amateur Radio is the greatest hobby in the world, and playing with antennas is just one of the many things that can be experimented with to improve your transmitted signal and receiver capability.

73, Dave, AC8TN

Honorary Members

Any person who by nature of outstanding or meritorious contribution to the furtherance of amateur radio and the ideals of the Cuyahoga Amateur Radio Society

Robert Check, W8GC

Elected 2/10/15

Thomas Wayne, WB8N

Elected 1/10/17

Dwayne Modock, K8ME, SK

Elected 5/9/17

Toby Kolman, WT8O

Elected 10/10/17

Jerry Smith, NW9H

Elected 5/8/18



Dave's Skyloop diagramed at his home with dimensions added.

New Net Controller-Ron, K8RJH

Please welcome Ron, K8RJH, to the Net Control Station group when he debuts on the CARS Wednesday net May 1st. When Ron moved to Cleveland a few years back he found CARS as one of the local radio clubs, he attended a meeting and joined the club soon after. We have been fortunate to have Ron as a member. He is a very active member and attends almost every meeting with XYL Esther. He participates in just about every net. Ron makes the scene at club activities such as the summer picnic, the Christmas party and the Hamvention bus to name a few. He has been a principle operator at Field Day and volunteered to help with soft drinks at the meetings.

If you missed it, Ron was the subject of the Member Profile feature in the October 2017 issue of the Wobbly Oscillator; check it out to learn about Ron's background. He has had net control experience over the years and will be bringing tremendous enthusiasm to our weekly club nets. He is chomping at the bit to start and very excited, as we all should be. Good luck OM.



146.820 PL Tone 110.9

Main Site – Brecksville

Receive Only Site – Brunswick

Receive Only Site – Shaker Hts.

443.825 PL Tone 131.8

Digital Yaesu Fusion

Linked to 146.82 Repeater

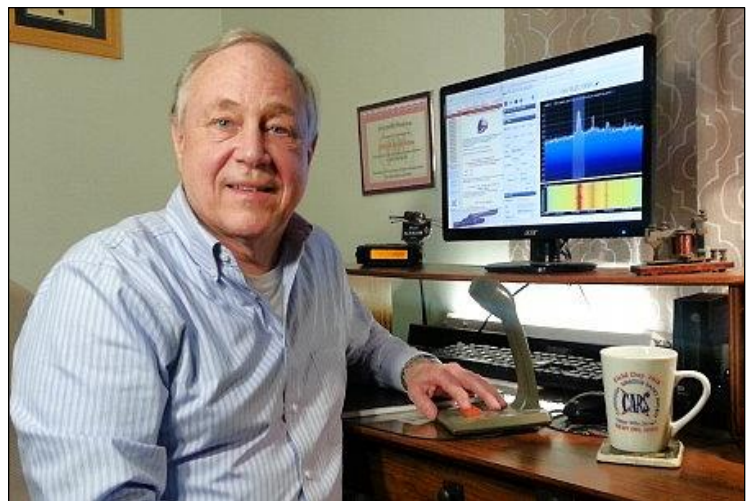
Brecksville

444.75 Receive PL Tone 131.8

449.75 Transmit

Stand-alone Not Linked

Shaker Hts.



Ron, K8RJH, at his operating position. Notice anything?

April Net Sked

APR	3	WT8O
APR	10	KD8ACO
APR	17	N8OWS
APR	24	AC8NW

Nets are run every Wednesday at
9:00 PM on 146.820 (PI 110.9)

VE Session

The CARS March VE session brought five new hams into the Amateur Radio Service. John Zehner, KE8LRI; Tom Schaefer, KE8LRJ; George Pitre, KE8LRK; Stephen Matz, KE8LRL; and Carl Kalkhof, KE8LRM passed their Technician exams becoming licensed amateurs and CARS members. We welcome John, Tom, George, Stephen and Carl into the ham radio hobby and CARS. Gerg Lowell, W1GCL and Marcus Just, W8MLJ passed the Amateur Extra exam. Congratulations to all.

Special thanks to our outstanding VE team, capably led by Metro, W8MET, and consisting of Gary, NI8Z; Roger, N8TCP; Larry, N8OWS; George, K8KR; Jim W8MIJ and Darren, K8DMT.

The next VE testing session will be held Sunday, May 12th, at 9:00 AM at the Old Elmwood Recreation Center, 6200 Pete Wisniesky Parkway, Independence 44131. Directions and a map are on the CARS website homepage. For information or an appointment please contact Metro, W8MET, at 216-520-1320 or metro351@sbcglobal.net As always, walk-ins are welcome.



Joel, K8SHB, shares his extensive electronics knowledge with the members of his Extra class.

Welcome New Members

Carl Kalkhoff, KE8LRM

Stephen Matz, KE8LRL

George Pitre, KE8LRK

Tom Schaeffer, KE8LRJ

John Zehner, KE8LRI

William Sheehan, K2WJS

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RadioSport

Contests

Apr 8 1900-2300 **144 MHz Spring Sprint** 144 CW Ph Dig sites.google.com/site/springvhfupsprints
Exchange: 4-char grid square

Apr 14 1800-2359 **ARRL Rookie Roundup, SSB** 3.5-50 Ph www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
Exchange: Name, 2-digit year licensed, state/province/XE area/"DX"

Special Events Stations

Apr 1-Apr 30 2400-0000 **W6RO** Long Beach, CA **40th Anniversary of W6RO Aboard the Queen Mary**
14.340 14.040 7.240 7.040 www.grz.com/db/w6ro or www.aralb.org

Apr 13 1500-2000 **W8PRC** Cleveland, OH (Parma Radio Club) **7th Annual Earth Day Celebration**
14.245 7.195 parmaradioclub.com

State QSO Parties

Apr 6 1400 - Apr 7 0200 **Mississippi QSO Party** 3.5-UHF CW Ph DIG www.arrlmiss.org
Exchange: RS(T), county or SPC [State, Province, DXCC Entity]

Apr 6 1400 - Apr 7 2000 **Missouri QSO Party** 1.8-UHF CW Ph Dig www.0ma.org
Exchange: RS(T), county or SPC

Apr 13 1400- Apr 14 0200 **New Mexico QSO Party** 1.8-50 CW Ph Dig www.newmexicogsoparty.org
Exchange: Name, county or SPC

Apr 13 1800-Apr 14 1800 **North Dakota QSO Party** 1.8-144 CW Ph Dig www.kg0yl.net/QSO.html
Exchange: RS(T), county or SPC

Apr 13 1800 - Apr 14 2359 **Georgia QSO Party** 1.8-50 CW Ph Dig www.georgiagsoparty.org
Exchange: RST, county or SPC

Apr 20 1300-Apr 21 2200 **Nebraska QSO Party** 1.8-UHF CW Ph Dig www.gcwa.org/chapter025.htm
Exchange: RS(T), county or SPC [FT8: S/N, grid]

Apr 20 1600 - Apr 21 0400 **Michigan QSO Party** 2.5-28 CW Ph www.miqp.org/Rules.htm
Exchange: Serial, county or SPC

Apr 27 1600 - Apr 28 2159 **Florida QSO Party** 7-28 CW Ph floridagsoparty.org
Exchange: RS(T), county or SPC

Sampling from QST April 2019 Pg. 87 and 99, see QST for many more events.

All times in GMT ZULU time

**Please reserve and pay for your
“2019 Hamvention” ride to Xenia, OH
Bus Trip ASAP.**

**Saturday May 18, 2019 CARS is
again sponsoring a Bus trip to the
“2019 Hamvention” 3rd time now at
the Green County Fairgrounds,
Xenia, OH.**



Every amateur radio operator in the world probably dreams about going to the Hamvention (formerly Dayton Hamvention) at least once. Please join us in 2019, it is an incredible event, 3rd year in this Venue and offers something for everyone.

The Bus trip will cost \$50.00 dollars per person, we will not stop for breakfast on the way down, but there may be a fast food stop on the way home. You are responsible for both your food and Hamvention tickets. Go to <http://www.hamvention.org/tickets.php> to order your tickets. **The Bus is wheel-chair accessible**

Stop 1: The 56 passenger bus will leave promptly at 5:00 am from the Kmart parking lot at the intersection of Engle and Bagley Roads, in Middleburg Heights, Engle Road is 1/4 mile west of I-71, Kmart is behind the Gas station. Vehicles will be safe, there is security.

Stop 2: The bus will also pickup riders at I-71 & Rt 303 at the SE corner of the Kmart parking lot and will depart for Xenia at approximately 5:30 am.

When ordering tickets please tell us which stop you will be at, plus we need your email info, name, call and phone number.

Bus tickets must be purchased and paid for in advance.

If you have any questions please see Toby WT8O at a CARS meeting or call him at 440-525-6109. Checks must be made out to CARS and mailed to: Toby Kolman, 5789 East Law Rd., Valley City, OH 44280 attn. Xenia bus or email: wt8o@att.net

73, Toby, WT8O

CARS 2019 Officers & Committees

Audit

WJ8WM ** WT8O, KD8OUE

Audio/Video

AC8NW **

ARRL Liaison

WJ8WM **

Awards

W8GC ** WT8O

Christmas party & Summer Picnic

KD8SCV **, WJ8WM, K8ARP

Club Photographer

N8OWS **

Field Day

WT8O **, WJ8WM, K8RGI, K8ARP, KD8SCV, AC8NW, AC8TN, N8BBB food

50/50

WT8O

License classes

KD8ACO **, WT8O, K8SHB

Media Representative

KD8SCV

Membership

WT8O ** KE8IHP

NET

WT8O **

Newsletter

WT8O ** 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

Programs at Meetings

KD8QBB **

Property Custodian's

KB8DTC records, W8GC equipment

Public Services

K8ARP ** KD8FTS

QSL Manager - W8HBI, W8BM

WB8N **

Refreshments at Meetings & Picnic

KD8SCV ** pop, AI8Y ** coffee,
NW8X ** Donuts

Scholarship

W8GC ** WJ8WM, KD8SCV, N8OWS, WB8N

Sunshine (welfare)

Andy, KD8SCV ** 440-886-0723

Technical

AC8NW ** N8OVW, WJ8WM, KD8ACO, KD8RKF, K8MD, KB8DTC

VE Exams

Metro, W8MET ** 216-520-1320

Web Master/e-mail

W8GC **

** chairman or co-chairman

2019 Officers

PRESIDENT

Toby Kolman WT8O 440-525-6109
wt8o@att.net

VICE-PRESIDENT

Mark Moro, WJ8WM 216-661-0342

SECRETARY

Larry Shimerka, N8OWS 216-647-2484

TREASURER:

Bob Check W8GC 216-524-1750

Board Members & License Trustees

Board Chairman

Andy Evridge KD8SCV 440-886-0723

even year executive board 2 year term

K8SHB, KB8DTC, KD8OUE

odd year executive board 2 year term

KD8SCV, K8ARP, WB8ROK

License trustee K8ZFR

WT8O

License trustee

W8HBI, W8BM,
W8GC



December 15, 2018